

Energy independence antananarivo

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The MSGBC Oil, Gas & #038; Power conference remains the only event entirely dedicated to exploring energy opportunities in Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Guinea-Conakry.

Delegates are able to access high-level insights from African policymakers and government officials, one-to-one investor matchmaking services and exclusive oil and gas market forecasts.

Amid first LNG exports and revitalized oil production, the Republic of Congo will host the inaugural forum on March 25-26, 2025, hosted by the Ministry of Hydrocarbons.

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Indeed, CECs can offer members a vehicle to plan, finance, and own their own energy systems, as well as to take a more proactive role in managing their energy services. In working collectively, citizens can restructure existing power networks and achieve better levels of distribution, diversity, and social inclusivity, particularly in terms of energy. Though this potential remains under-utilised by national governments to date. Building on our own research and work by Robinson and Stephen²⁴, Table 1 summarises the key governance and socio-political factors that condition the levels of citizen engagement in existing CECs. Indeed, it should be noted that many of these factors often act as a barrier to greater CEC formation across the European Union.

While the concept of "community energy" has its basis in discourses on sustainability, good self-governance, and energy independence³⁰, it is the institutional contexts within which members of energy communities interact that have the most significant impact on the types of energyscapes that will ultimately be formed. Therefore, a more sustainable--and sustaining--energy system involves a social transformation that is both deep and systemic, and supported by the work of citizens³¹. Suitably supported community energy projects offer a perfect opportunity to combine individual and public interests into a more mutually beneficial socio-technical system than has heretofore been the case³².

How energy communities are coalescing at different governance scales also provides scholars with new opportunities to develop further insights into the energy transition. Melville et al.'s⁵⁰ paper, for example, examines the potential of applying a commons-based framework to urban energy management using as a case study community-oriented approaches to electricity demand response in a UK city. While acknowledging the considerable literature already available on smart grids, particularly in terms of systemic value^{51,52}, demand

response criteria^{53,54,55,56}, issues around privacy^{57,58} and community-based approaches^{59,60,61}, conceptualising energy (notably electricity) as a form of commons remains under-theorised and open for further examination.

As an actor with agency that offers citizens a vehicle whereby, they can generate, consume, and store energy, while also participating in energy markets and adding flexibility to the energy system. As an actor, concerned about climate change for example, a CEC can enable citizens to find solutions to through the production and consumption of RES, while also raising local awareness of the need to transition to low-carbon energy systems. At the same time, these solutions provide other social benefits at the local level, e.g., cheaper more reliable electricity infrastructure for remote populations and energy services that allow citizens to live more comfortably.

As scale, CECs can be seen as located somewhere between the individual and the local government, comprising of collective formations of citizens, societal organisations, and private actors that do not necessarily partake in formal government structures, but rather operate somewhat outside at a more autonomous level.

As place, whereby citizens define or interpret a CEC as operating along highly localised terms (e.g., through self-consumption using infrastructure that is not linked directly to the national grid).

As a network, formed by new relationships between different stakeholders beyond the local. These networks form partnerships between individuals, companies, societal organisations, and governments, with the aim of achieving joint benefits such as optimising the energy system.

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